TASIAS





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FANTASIAS

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MRS. MOSS-COCKLE

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FOLLOW ME.

"And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."
—ST. LUKE ix. 23.

(Christ.)

"Brother, arise, and follow Me,
"Tis I, the Lord, who call to thee,
From wrath to come, and danger flee,
Come now, come one and all.
Take up thy cross, and by My might,
Its burden shall be deem'd but light;
For thou must bear it in My sight,
Till I shall bid it fall."

"Then when, this weary journey o'er,
Thy feet shall press the golden floor,
Beyond the Jordan's silent shore,
That cross will vanish quite.

And on thy brow a crown shall shine, Whose dazzling lustres will combine To stamp thee altogether Mine, Most precious in My sight."

(1st Voice in Response.)

"Yea, Lord, I hear Thee calling me, From wrath to come I trembling flee, And Thine I would for ever be,

But— "

(Christ.)

"But what?"

(Voice.)

"The world, it is so wond'rous kind,
My pleasures in it are enshrin'd,
It loves me, and my roving mind
For God is not yet won.
I am too young to follow Thee,
And give up all so dear to me,
A Christian now I cannot be,
I'll follow later on!"

(Christ.)

"Oh child, so altogether blind,
The world to thee is only kind,
Because thou 'rt young and fair!
Life's spring-time soon will pass away,
Swift fading into grim decay,
And Time its joys impair.
Too old and worn to serve Me then,
I ask thy best days now, e'en when
The flow'r is in its bloom."

(2nd Voice.)

"Oh yes! dear Lord, I'll follow Thee,
A Christian ever I would be,
And count all earth as dross to me,
But——"

(Christ.)

"But what?"

(Voice.)

"I am so rich in golden ore, Houses and lands, a goodly store, Increasing it still more and more, Takes all my thoughts and time. If I were poor, without this bait
To chain me to my worldly state,
I'd come, and ere it be too late,
Accept Thy gift divine."

(Christ.)

"Oh brother, my heart bleeds to think
Such trifles stay thee on the brink
Of endless bliss or woe.
Thy soul I may require of thee,
Before thy goods increas'd shall be;
With thee they cannot go.
Will they repay thee at that hour,
When death shall hold thee in his pow'r,
For all thou wilt have lost?"

(3rd Voice.)

"Dear Lord, I hear Thee calling me, Thy servant should be strong and free, And I would ever follow Thee,

But—— "

(Christ.)

"But what?"

(Voice.)

"I am so full of household cares,
And daily toils come unawares,
They seem so many traps and snares,
To banish love divine.
Rarely at rest, I work away,
Fresh cares succeeding day by day,
These are the things, dear Lord, that stay
My heart from being Thine."

(Christ.)

"Oh know, that in thy daily life,
Whether as sister, daughter, wife,
Thou mayst do work for Me;
Let all thine actions ever prove
The motive principle of love,
No nobler aim could be.
A household cross to thee is giv'n,
To bear upon thy path to Heav'n,
So humbly follow Me."

(4th Voice.)

"Yes, Lord, I hear Thee calling me,
A better life I long to see—
The world has nearly wearied me,
But——"

(Christ.)

"But what?"

(Voice.)

"Foremost in folly's band alway,
I have been gayest of the gay,
What would my friends in wonder say,
Were I from them to flee?
Alas, my cheeks would burn with shame
To hear them scoffing o'er my name—
Deriding laugh, and jeer, and blame
My transferr'd love to Thee."

(Christ.)

"Oh brother, when thine end draws nigh,
And God decrees that thou must die,
Will friends avail thee, say?
Can they avert the touch of death,
Or stay the ebbing, flutt'ring breath,
That soon must cease for aye?
I truly then alone can be,
A friend, a comforter to thee,
When God calls thee away."

(5th Voice.)

"Oh Lord, 'tis true that I would be A faithful follower of Thee, From wrath to come I wish to flee, But——"

(Christ.)

"But what?"

(Voice.)

"The dearest one on earth to me,
Perhaps, may never follow Thee,
Apart from him I could not be,
His love is my true home.
At present he is wilful, blind,
But if, perchance, he change his mind,
And in Thee resting, pure joys find,
No longer I will roam."

(Christ.)

"And canst thou desecrate that love Which I have given thee to move His dark relentless mind?

A woman's influence used aright,
Is stronger than a sword of might,
With sheath of flowers entwin'd!
Come first, and show him that your heart
Has chosen well that better part,
He then will follow too."

(6th Voice.)

"With much delight I'd follow Thee,
A faithful servant I would be,
These fleeting joys are nought to me,
But——"

(Christ.)
"But what?"

(Voice.)

"Too old, and weak, and worn am I, So soon 'twill be that I must die, I could not follow Thee on high,

If cross-borne it must be.

As years by decades add their tenth,
They tell me I must sink at length,
Nay, Lord, I have not now the strength
To humbly follow Thee."

(Christ.)

"Oh aged one, in faith so weak, Thou dost in Me no sweet balm seek, To gladden thy last day. Thank God, before death comes to thee. That I have call'd thee now to Me, Nor cast this chance away; Delays are dang'rous; all is lost, When wav'ring minds by doubts are toss'd, And will not, when they may; For others seize with eager eyes, The golden gem-besprinkled prize, And then they learn, too late, How much is lost in what has gone, Which, but for doubts, they might have won, So sorrow is their fate! Both old and young, both grave and gay, I call to follow Me to-day— None are denied My love. All those who bear a cross for Me Shall one day radiant ever be, With perfect joys in store; And each one to My side they win, Rare jewels for their crowns within Shall gleam for evermore.

Bright as the glitt'ring stars above,

They'll dwell 'mid heav'nly spheres of love,

In bliss beyond explore.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear hath heard,

What God hath lovingly conferr'd

On all who follow Me."

HAIDÉE.

'Twas in the balmy days of June, When ev'ry hour was fair as noon, He came—but ah! he came too soon To woo her.

And she was debonnaire as May, Younger than e'en a fresh Spring day, And sweet as fragrant new-mown hay Was Haidée.

The silken ringlets of her hair Brighter than gold of Ophir were, They made an aureole so fair Around her. Glow'd in her cheeks the tender blush, Warm and soft as the morn's first flush, Quiv'ring all the leaves with a brush Fast fleeting.

While in the dewy hazel eyes,
There shone a glimmer of the skies,
Lit by a love that never dies,
So holy!

Now Ronald, he came from afar, With honors receiv'd in the war; So then, when he saw this fair star, He lov'd her.

Twas thus in roseate bowers,
Amidst the odour of flowers,
With dewdrops falling in showers
He woo'd her.

With the moon's wan light from above, Smiling down on his own fair dove, He whisper'd, he whisper'd his love To Haidée. But startled was she as a fawn
That tremblingly bounds o'er the lawn
In the absence of note to warn
From danger.

Then soothing, he stood by her side, Crying, "Promise to be my bride." But her eyes only open'd wide With wonder.

Said she, "If 'tis true, all you pray,
Alas! you must go far away,
For to you I never can say
I love you."

"The one whom I love, he is dead, Beneath the green sod is his bed; My love nevermore can be wed To mortal."

Quoth Ronald, "Refuse not my flower;
Believe me, you'd have a rich dower,
For with all my soul, and my power,
I love you."

"But if you say 'nay,' I will die By these hands, then ever to lie The victim for years to roll by, Of my love."

Spake Haidée, "I give not my love, But my hand I give thee, to prove Thy life I would blight not, nor move Thee to sin."

The nightingale sang overhead
From the curtain of night outspread;
As the tears of the moon were shed
In silence.

Oh bright then was that summer time, Alive with woodbine and the lime, While soft-eyed blue-bells' muffled chime Rang blithely.

Old Time—he flies on airy wings— O'er them his fairy mantle flings, And each day passing nearer brings Their nuptials. But 'twas scarce three days off the day Of the sweet-swelling bridal lay, That Haidée seem'd to fade away In languor.

She faded as the lilies fade,
So quietly, within the shade;
And none could tell whate'er had made
Her thus die.

'Twas thought she pined away for one
Who to the land of dreams had gone,
But whose fond heart with her's was one
For ever,

And on the day she should have giv'n
The hand that from her heart was riv'n,
An angel bore her up to Heav'n,
To her love.

Thus borne was she from Ronald's side, Oh nevermore with him to bide; Stern Death had claim'd her for his bride, Fair Haidée! And Ronald's heart it nearly broke;
Across the sea, he tried to choke
The feelings that could find no cloak
For sorrow.

In after years he often said,
"I go to where my Haidée sped,'
To those pure realms just overhead,
In Heaven."

A SONG OF ENGLAND.

OH why is England prosperous,
And why her people's fare
So free from darksome hopelessness
And heavy hanging care?
Her strongholds are well fortified,
Her puissance rules the wave,
And all the hearts of Englishmen
Are noble, strong, and brave.

Fair plenty decks her star-lit brow
With crown of inwrought gold,
Her smiles display unsparingly
Rich mines of wealth untold.
Success her hopes rose-hued doth wreathe.
And Bounty's outstretch'd hands
Are fill'd for her with riches rare,
That dower not other lands.

(

Then why is England prosperous?

It is because she holds
Religion as her banner true,
While Virtue it unfolds.

The blessings of the Mighty One
Descend on England's head,
And bless'd are these her living sons,
And bless'd her hallow'd dead!

THE OCEAN'S PRIZE.

Onward ever dark waves bore him,
O'er the surging ocean's foam—
There, where no fond eyes might view him
In the blue depth's hidden home.
On and on, the wild waves crashing,
Crushing him in their embrace,
All their dolorous dirges ringing
O'er the deathful, dappl'd space.

Yes, a dreamy downy pillow

Did to him the weird waves prove,
Rock'd on briny, bristling billows,
He was borne from life and love;

Yes, alas! from hearts that lov'd him, Friends to whom he was most dear, Close those seething surges shrin'd him— Coffin'd in their yawning bier.

Pale and firm, the mute mouth wearing
Still a soften'd, pensive smile—
And the sad eyes, half-clos'd, bearing
Tears for those he lov'd awhile.

Masses of lank hair lay dripping
O'er that pure brow, marble-white,
E'er in waves of froth deep dipping,
Shining in the dying light.

Ah! what sighs and prayers were flowing Soulful agonies of grief,

For the one on billows tossing,

Gather'd now in Death's pale sheaf.

He was to his wife, her dearest,

To his children, all in all,

Once their pride, their star, their glory,

Now he's far beyond recall.

Stately plumes no sighs were waving, From church-bells no groans were rung, For the form the waves were laving,
Never requiem was sung.
But o'ershadowing spirits shining,
Made a halo o'er the sea,
Closely clasp'd their arms about him,
Wing'd him to eternity.

IN THE SUNSHINE.

(This song is set to music by C. W. Thomas, Esq., and published by Hart & Co.)

In the sunshine, when the flowers

Fill the air with perfum'd love,
And the silv'ry clouds are sailing
In their sapphire seas above;
When the world with smiles is beaming,
Steeped in languors fair to see,
Will you then remember, darling,
All you promis'd me to be—
On the day when, crowned with roses,
Standing in your golden May,
You allur'd with softest glances
All the heart I had away?

Phantom weird, and worn, and weary,
Ghastly, grim, and stern, defies
All the sobbing of my being,
All the tear-drops of my eyes.
Nevermore within the sunshine,
Down the jewell'd path of flow'rs,
Shall I wander with you, darling,
'Neath those rose-entwining bow'rs.
When our heart's fond love combining,
With this world no more shall be,
Then you will become, my darling,
All you promis'd me to be.

THE CHILD'S LETTER.

"OH Cissy is so ill, mamma,
She looks so thin and wan,
The light has left her dancing eyes,
The rosy hue is gone;
She lies serenely still in bed,
Nor stirs her head to see
Her Robin gazing for the smile
He loves so tenderly.

"Say, will she die, my dear mamma?

I think my heart would break,

If nevermore with me again,

Her woodland walks she'll take.

The doctor, can't he make her well?

He cured our little Jane;

So write to him at once to come

And see her yet again."

The mother wrote, then gently turn'd
Her weary, woe-worn eyes,
With uprais'd finger, solemnly
Towards the clear blue skies.
"'Tis only One, who reigns above,
Can make her well and strong;
Ask God to spare her precious life—
To Him all lives belong."

The child look'd grave, and ran away
On some idea intent,
The one thought uppermost, that nigh
His heaving bosom rent.
"If mamma can write to doctor,
To God then, I can write,
Oh where is a pen and paper?
I'll write this very night."

"Dear God," he wrote, "please will you make My little sister well?" Then he clos'd it, and address'd it,
But how—I cannot tell;
Nor did he e'en forget to put
A stamp where it should be,
While to the pillar-box he flew,
And posted it with glee.

"Oh when will God write back?" he mus'd,
So proudly pleas'd he seem'd,
For, full of faith and confidence,
His starry dark eyes gleam'd.
And to mamma, all smiles, he went,
To tell what he had done;
Then she bent tenderly, and kiss'd
Her little angel-son.

"God won't write back, dear child," she said,
"If 'tis His will to give
What you desire, oh then, be sure,
Our Cissy, she will live.
His will be done! So come with me,
May be her sleep is o'er."
And softly did they enter through
The thickly muffled door.

Slowly the clos'd eyes open'd now,
With calm inquiring gaze,
To the dear faces bending low
Their lambent love-lit rays.
The fever had abated, so
The crisis thus was o'er:
"God has receiv'd my letter then,"
Said Robin; nothing more.

A HYMN.

OH come in the rosy morning,
When new life and hope are strong,
And the heart is beating bravely
For a conflict fierce and long.
And clad in Christian armour,
With Faith's banner floating free,
Never the strength shall flicker,
Till life's battles cease to be.

Oh come in the golden noontide, When the heart is bow'd with care, When the pain and pleasure, mingled, Are heavy and hard to bear. When perfume divine from Heaven, Like dew on a thirsty leaf, Shall be as the balm of Gilead, A perfect and sweet relief.

Oh come in the dusky twilight,
When the strength is almost flown,
And the sear'd heart's fragrant roses
Are wither'd, and crush'd, and blown.
And a beacon star of glory
Shall lighten the cloudy way,
To where fadeless flow'rs are blooming,
In spheres of undying day.

Oh come in the silent midnight,
When life's journey is nearly o'er,
And the soul is only waiting
To pass to the far-off shore.
When with love unknown, unbounded,
The unseen Christ shall guide
Over the waters of Jordan,
Safe, safe to the other side.

LOVELY IN DEATH.

Thou fair young form of maidenhood;

Making e'en death a lovely sight,

Just in the flush of life's sweet bloom,

How soon thy day is turn'd to night.

The absence of the vital spark
Disrobes thy features of no charm,
Rather, the impress it has left
Has serv'd to paint them bright and warm.

Thy hair wears still its glossy hue, Twining and twisting o'er thy brow, As if 'twould scoff the hand of death, And mock its presence even now. Lovely those eyes, so large, so deep,
Breathing a love, in sooth, divine,
Bright with the ray thy spirit left,
In Heav'n's own halo do they shine.

Those veiling lashes, curl'd and dark, Contrast well with thy marble cheek; The chisell'd nose—the clear-cut lips— Make all description poor and weak.

Thy dress so white, the rose that lies Upon thy stirless silent breast,
Are emblems of the hidden life
Thy soul has found in endless rest.

Thou casket of a deathless gem,

Now in the grave at peace shall lie,
Till the last trump of God shall sound

To bid thee join thy soul on high!

THE DAYS OF LONG AGO.

(This song is set to music by C. W. Thomas, Esq., and published by Hart & Co.)

By the riverside they wander'd,

In the days of long ago,

When their youthful hearts were throbbing

With a passion-piercing glow;

When the star-strown smiling future

Lit the fervour of their love

Into a spark as radiant

As undying flames above.

"For ever mine"—"For ever thine"—

Ah! well their troth they spoke,

While the pale sun gleam'd above them,

And the silver wavelets broke.

'Twas but a living dream, Now, at length, they know, For nevermore returning Are the days of long ago!

'Neath an aspen's quiv'ring branches, By a green and mossy mound, Shrouded in a veil of sorrow, So an aged man is found. Hoary, bent, convuls'd with sorrow. For the love of long ago, Does his soul discharge its anguish, As but truest love can flow. By the riverside no longer Will they wander as of yore, For the golden light of morning O'er their hearts can break no more. 'Twas but a living dream, Now, at length, they know, For nevermore returning Are the days of long ago!

WILLIE

I тоок his tiny hand in mine, I kiss'd his fevered cheek, Pressing the frail form in my arms, The form that was so weak.

I rain'd bright tear-drops on the head That shone with golden hair, Gazing into the deep blue eyes, The face that was so fair.

I knew the blossom in my arms
Was fading fast away,
That ere the morn 'twould garner'd be,
To bloom in deathless day.

And strangely did my pulses throb, And anguish pierc'd my heart, That I must from the child I lov'd, So soon, so sadly part.

But messengers from fairer spheres
A Father's summons bore;
So how should I, though left behind,
His happiness deplore?

And then a low voice smote my ear,
I heard my darling say,
"I'm going, going far from you,
With you I cannot stay."

"I've lov'd to play in ilex groves, Chasing the butterfly, But now my Father bids me rise To fairer bowers on high."

"And, think you, God will let me cull Flow'rs for a garland gay, And play in streets all pav'd with gold, Throughout the livelong day?" "I do not weep to leave you here,
For I shall watch on high,
To be the first to welcome you
To mansions in the sky."

"I only ask the flow'rs I love
May lie upon my breast,
When, having bid farewell to all,
You lay me down to rest!"

Alas, I heard no more from him,
The pretty golden head
Sank gently, slowly down again
Upon the snowy bed.

I saw the blue eyes rais'd on high To those pure realms above; And then I felt him borne away On angel-wings of love.

Then did I cut a silken curl
That rested on my arm,
Whispering softly to myself,
"My Willie's safe from harm."

Yes, pillowed on a Father's breast,
And in a Father's home,
He'll henceforth know nor sin nor pain,
And sorrow ne'ermore come.

Of him I never cease to think,

Nor do I e'er forget

To strew my Willie's grave with flow'rs—

The rose, and violet.

THE DEATH OF THE OLD YEAR.

I can hear the church-bells ringing
O'er the jewel-sprinkl'd snow,
As the dying light of sunset
Flames the heavens all aglow.
And the glaciers, stiffly hanging
From the leafless arms on high,
Shine as diamonds gleaming brightly
In the star-lamps of the sky.

Ruddy red the old log burning,

Crackles in the rich man's grate,
As the timepiece, beating slowly,

Tells the hour is growing late.
Old year! hoary with the snow-flakes
Scatter'd in thy tangled hair,
All prepared to leave thy kingdom

To the baby small and fair.

Give a blessing, ere thou takest

All the old and lov'd hours spent,

That the joy of having liv'd them

May with mem'ry sweet be blent;

So into the untrod regions

Of the future's unknown ways,

Perfect light may guide us rightly,

Lit with true-love's quenchless rays.

CHANGELESS STILL.

(This song is set to music by C. W. Thomas, Esq., and published by Hart & Co.)

In the dawning, when the sunlight
Stream'd upon the sleepy flow'rs,
And the wind was shaking gently
Show'rs of dew from off the bow'rs,—
Came a maiden tripping softly,
With the love-light in her eyes,
To the trysting-tree where, waiting,
Her beloved she espies.
"Can you love me thus, and leave me?"
Cried she in that parting hour;—
And his word, "For ever changeless,"
Held her in its soothing pow'r.

In the dawning, after years,
Years of waiting and regret,
Came the maiden stepping sadly,
While her eyes with tears are wet.
'Neath the trysting-tree she gazes,—
Stands an angel waiting there!
Can it be her heart's beloved,
Come from realms divinely fair?
"Changeless still," he murmur'd softly,
"Death is not so strong as love,
And I've come to fetch you, darling,
To a better world above."

THE LITTLE STREET-SWEEPER.

Poor little fellow! cold and thin, Brushing with all his might, He sees not the shadows gath'ring In the dark drizzling night.

The lamps are lit, and radiate

His worn and weary face,

Great eyes down-dropt, and features too—

Possessing winning grace.

"Give me a penny, please," he cries,
With pleading tones and sad;
The people merely hurry on,
Nor heed the little lad.

He gazes listly after them,

The blue eyes dim with tears;
Long sobs break from his heaving breast,
His heart beats fast with fears.

"Nothing to eat; nowhere to sleep!"

Oh, that the rich would turn

From their cruel scorn to hear him,

Before his case they spurn.

A fearful lack of sympathy,
A woeful want of heart;
Ah! who can be a Christian,
And take no Christian's part?

Ye who refuse a pittance to

The smallest, ay, of those
Who ask it—then remember that
God marks it, and He knows.

"As much as ye did not do it To those who needy be, So I count it that ye did not Thus do it unto Me."

GONE BEFORE.

OH give me back the golden years,
Of the time when, long ago,
Sweet sun-kist smiles did woo the hours,
And a tear we ne'er did know.
When flow'r-hung joys, bestrewn with gems,
Drops ambrosial shed around;
And the gentle forms of dear ones,
Loving arms around us wound.

They, too, have pass'd to join the throng,
Round the mystic great white throne,
While their vacant places leave us,
Ah, so weary, sad, and lone.
Only echoes of their voices
Steal along the evening air—
As we dream we see them sitting
By our side, as once they were.

Angels, whisp'ring in the silence
Of the hush'd and starry night,
Waft the deathless germs to usward,
From their fire-tipp'd wings of light.
And they sprout as trees, life-giving—
Fruit, that ne'er can wither more,
Ready ripen'd to be garner'd
In the vast eternal store.

MATTIE IN THE CLOISTERS.

Wearily a little figure,
Barely clad, and thin, and ill,
Sought the shelter of the cloisters—
Where, beneath the arches still,
Found he solace from the sorrow
Of an outside world of care,
That made life, in years so tender,
Sad and clouded, sear'd and bare.

Grandly through the vaulted arches
Stole the organ's richest tones,
Swelling into soulful volumes,
Dying into murm'ring moans,

Striking sore poor Mattie's heartstrings, While the big tears dimm'd his eyes, Till the sobs that struggling shook him Brought an angel from the skies.

Slowly down the aisle appearing,
Came she robed in sheen of white,
And her face was fair and beaming
With a sweet unearthly light.

Mattie wonder'd at the vision,
Like a child, no fear arose,
And he seem'd as though admiring
The strange beauty of her clothes.

Very tenderly she kiss'd him,

Then she bore him far away,
Past the scenes where he in gladness
Oft did with his comrades play.
Over hedge, and tree, and flower,
To the golden cloudless land,—
Where the children meet together
Playing on its shining strand.

Back the gates of pearl and jacinth, And the lady enter'd in; But without did little Mattie

Leave his soil-stain'd shroud of sin.

With the robe of Christ his Saviour,

Far from want, and scorn, and pain,

Never will he seek for shelter

In an earthly court again.

LOVE IN THE GLADE.

Love went stalking in the glade,
With a lightsome bounding heart,
Holding in his golden sheath
Many a bright bejewell'd dart.
Looking near, and gazing far,
Pluming oft his wings of light,
Now he sees a maiden fair,
Rob'd in virgin garb of white;
Sad she seems—she has no love
To give life unto her life;
So he pulls his silken string,
And he asks her for his wife.
Love is sadness, love is gladness,
Love sometimes is only madness!

Love went sighing in the shade,
In the waning of the day,
But one arrow in his hand,—
All the rest were cast away;
They had pierc'd so many hearts,
Wringing drops of ruddy gore,
That, grown weary of his play,
He resolv'd to shoot no more.
Regretful of the plunder
That made havoc of his life,
He fell amongst the flowers,
On his own red reeking knife.
Love is sadness, love is gladness,
Love sometimes is only madness!

A MAY BRIDAL.

She stood in clouds of snowy white, My bride, the darling of my sight, Her soft eyes gleaming with a light Of deepest joy.

The raven tresses of her hair Hung down in masses rich and rare, Clustering o'er a brow as fair As lilies are.

Her long silk lashes, dew'd with tears, Reveal'd the heart of many fears; She seem'd a rose that conscious rears To heav'n its head. A thousand blushes came and went,
As she her fair head lowly bent,
And heart's fond pray'r to God was sent,
My love—my bride.

The organ roll'd out through the place, I scarce could see my darling's face—
'Twas hid in shimm'ring sheen of lace
As she approach'd.

I felt her kneeling by my side,— The golden knot at last was tied, For evermore with me to bide, Oh, bliss supreme!

The Church rite o'er—to tell the rest—Of mingl'd greetings, sweet and blest—I clasp'd her to my loving breast,
My life, my all.

One year of happiness so bright, One year of blessing and delight, Then unto God she wing'd her flight, Oh earth! oh love! I look back on the time gone by, To soothe my grief I'd fain not try, My heart is rent—I only sigh For death to come.

Oh, that my tongue could ever tell
The love my heart has known so well,
Profound and silent must it dwell
Till heav'n be mine.

POET AND PHILOSOPHER.

(Philosopher.)

I AM an orbit, whose keen eye of light Can pierce through the dawning, and probe the night.

Sheer shams and dumb shows I shiver, and shake To all the four winds the idols ye make.

The world is an open book in my hand, In it I read mystic truths of the land.

(Poet.)

I am the spirit that filleth all space, For in earth and heav'n my light is God's face.

The spark I kindle from altars of fire, Sets the world's soul all aflame with desire. All men are my subjects, for all hearts are mine; The sceptre I wield i' my hand is divine.

(Epilogue.)

Philosophers treat of the things that are,
A noble mission, as all may see;
But the poets are God's ambassadors,
They show alone how those things should be.

A DREAM OF APOLLO.

I sit beside the sedgy stream that runs
Rippling and rushing by my weary feet;
Above, the birds are singing in the trees,
And in the distance, sounds the young lamb's bleat.
So drowsy is the air,
The parting light paints fair
Many an Iris line of beauty in the sky,

Athwart the grass, the shadows come and go,
Playing a fairy gambol in the stream,
As o'er me, while the rushes bend and bow,
It seems a veil enwraps me—and I dream;
For through you wicket gate,
Where Nora used to wait,

Till it and earth both kiss each other silently.

(Ah me! she's singing now beyond the stars of God,) There comes a gliding figure towards me, o'er the sod.

His eyes are flaming stars, and round his brow
A wreath of twisted laurel is entwin'd,
His face, dead-pale, reveals the inward fire
Where, in his soul, immortal thoughts are shrin'd.
A hero dear to fame,
In sooth, I know his name,
Apollo come from Arcady! and in his hand
A lyre—that lyre which chains and charms the list'ning land.

He spoke not, though I long'd to hear him speak,
But silently struck sundry chords that rang
Through all my veins and fibres, thrilling me;
Then in full flute-like, tender tones, he sang:—

"When hearts are weary, and love is sad,
Fond hope from our soul seems flying.
The flow'rs with a weight of tears are bent,
And Nature's sweet self seems dying.
Alas! alas! and well-a-day!
When hearts are weary, and love is sad.

When joy peeps out from a dove-grey cloud,
Like the sun, which e'er is shining,
Though dusky hued is the cloud awhile,
It still has a silver lining.
Alas! alas! and well-a-day!
When joy peeps out from a dove-grey cloud.

Love is the essence and life of life

To the heart that's worn and weary,

And sweet content is a lamp that turns

Into day the night so dreary.

Alas! alas! and well-a-day!

Love is the essence and life of life."

The lyre is hush'd—through all the trees the wind Is echoing the burden of the song;
I gaze and gaze, but lo! he is not there,
He stands not in the leafy shrubs among.
The night is drawing near,
The stars are shining clear,
And as the dew-kist eyelids of the twilight close,
A pent-up truant tear fell silently. I rose.

A RED ROSE.

'Twas all on a July evening,
The mellowing summer time—
When the perfume-laden breezes
To the choir-bird's anthems chime,
That he gave a red, red rose-bud
To his darling, standing there,
And she placed it in the ripples
Of her sun-lit, shining hair.
"Plight me your troth on that, dearest,
Oh plight me your troth to-day."
So she gave him her heart for ever,
Her love, and her life, for aye.

Far over the blue sea billows

Her sailor must go to roam;

His love he leaves with his darling,

Her heart is his only home.

But she pal'd and pin'd as the flow'r

That wither'd upon her breast;

While Death kiss'd her eyes—to waken

In realms of eternal rest.

"Still mine, for Heav'n will unite us,"

Her sailor cried sore that day,

"For do I not know she gave me

Her love, and her life, for aye?"

THE WOODCUTTER'S DAUGHTER.

A cold wind in the silent night
Did whistle through the trees,
And borne away was many a leaf
By the alluring breeze.
The bat's cry echoed through the wood,
The pale stars shone on high,
Glimmering in a setting dark
Of amaranthine sky.

One lonely hut was pictur'd there,
Amid the weird, wan scene;
It seem'd to stare from out the gloom
With chilly look serene.

A dim light in the casement burnt, A window broken through, And bitterly the midnight wind O'er that dark, dank hut blew.

Inside was stretch'd upon a mat
Old Jeff, the woodcutter,
Who fast in low and mournful tones,
To himself did mutter.
Writhing upon his narrow bed,
In dreadful pain he lay,
For ne'er could he again expect
To see the light of day.

A gentle face look'd sadly down
Upon the old man there,
All lovely as a blushing rose,
So sweet, so fresh, so fair.
The soul-lit eyes bedew'd with tears,
The coral lips compress'd,
As with her pale and trembling hands
His mortal wound she dress'd.

Not long the old man had to wait Heav'n's messenger to come, Who bore him from his pains and woes,
To a celestial home.
Or ere the first faint flush of morn
Burst on his earth-pall'd sight,
His soul was wafted to the realms

That know no pain or night.

Sweet strains from his dear daughter's voice
Forthwith to heav'n did ring,
They floated with him as he sped
Upon the angel's wing.
Alone she stood, that frail, fair form,
With pallid Death beside;
Well that he had not claim'd her yet
For his resistless bride.

But guardian spirits, visionless,
In countless train drew near,
And tenderly they wip'd away
The maiden's heart-wrung tear.
"Away," they whisper'd, "far away,
You soon will follow, too,
To know, beyond those golden gates,
What hope and joy ne'er knew."

CHRIST OR DIANA.

(SUGGESTED BY MR. E. LONG'S PICTURE, EXHIBITED AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.)

FLUSHES a rosy hue aslant the sky,
Aurora smiles; the solemn hour draws nigh
That shall decide the freedom of a life
Chain'd down, and bound, beneath a nation's knife,
Debas'd, and fetter'd to caprice of will,
Oh who but for a gain untold, could bear it still?
Lo, where it listeth, doth the Boreas blow,
But where it resteth, can we never know.
Alike the ray which probes the wounds of night,
Transpierc'd a hopeless blindness into sight;
And o'er the desert of a maiden's heart
Diffus'd such radiance that new life did start,

Now breaking forth, on eagle wings to soar Where Faith and Sight unite for evermore. The moment come—the multitude around, Beneath the tow'ring buildings closely wound, Rang'd high in tiers, in dappled hues gaze on, To see which triumph may the day have won. "Christ or Diana," rings along the sea, "Let her but cast one grain, and she is free." Clad in her vestal robe of white she stands; 'Tis hers, by one small act, to burst her bands— Freedom or bondage choose, yea, heav'n or hell. The tremour of that moment who can tell? Reigns now a strange, dead silence—all await To see a slave dissolve this grain of fate. Blanch'd with a pallor that reveals the pain. Her features set, the eyes uprais'd again, Her soul speaks through them to the cager throng, Of high resolving, noble, pure and strong; Of unseen presence felt, whose aid is near, At this all-trying moment, to o'ercome each fear. "Avaunt, Diana! Bondage do I brave!" Is the averting movement of the slave. "Shall one dire grain possess pow'r to recall The sentence that a lifetime doth enthrall?

Or buy my soul from Him who died to prove The deep reality of His great love. Nay, rather bondage with its hundred years, Than reeking misery of shame and tears. Christ ever! though a while in bonds to be, A Christian's crown shall set the slave-girl free."

A LOVE-PORTRAIT.

• The life of love, the light of life shone round, 'Mid cloudless skies, from loving trustful eyes, Heav'n in their glance, and rapture in each touch, With joy heart-throbbing, and with tender sighs.

Behold a wife, a mother, 'neath the shade Of softly brushing leavesand nodding flow'rs, Her child upon her knee, while for his weal Her thoughts were busy through the sunny hours.

Sweet smil'd her hero—her beloved lord, Reclining on the green grass waving there; His dark curls, ruffled by the fitful wind, Display'd a brow as noble as 'twas fair. And oft the child would wander forth to cull Some woodland flow'ret in the meadow near, Returning to his parents, gleeful, wild, To pour his prating prattle in their ear.

Oh, gentle wife, so worthily ador'd, And husband, so befitting to be guide, Walk onwards, hand in hand, while yet 'tis day, Then rest together in life's eventide.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

Women true, and pure, and fair, With the love-crown in your hair, Would you men's stern mission share?

Seek you men to emulate? Claim your votes—and in debate Model laws of Church and State?

Forsooth, 'tis an aggressive age, All are as Minerva, sage, Ready wisdom's war to wage.

Henceforth men no more shall reign— 'Tis the woman's broad domain; Let them follow in her train. They must see she holds her own In contention, and alone Shareth equally his throne.

Sisters, listen! it is true
Men have brains, so likewise you,
Yours as good—oft better, too.

But their use should be to shed Radiant blessings on the head Of home's dear ones gathered.

So, by firm but loving hand, Lead a mighty angel-band Safely to the better land.

Science, Art, will sweeter be, If in them God's love you see, Who has given them to thee.

Thus your brain's creations grow, Swift in broadest paths to flow, With inspired flame aglow. May your pow'r supreme which sways Man, whom e'er your will obeys, Glitter in life's love-strung rays.

That your influence may shine, And as ivy-leaves entwine Round the world, and home—divine.

TRIFLES MAKE THE SUM OF LIFE.

- OH is there not a sweetness in the smallest flow'r that grows,
- The dewdrop on the green leaf, the zephyr wind that blows,
- The broad fields, and the wild flow'rs that bestrew the path we tread,
- The odours of the roses, and the songsters overhead?
- And our God has not forgotten the smallest things that please,
- The brooklet's faintest murmurs, or the music on the breeze;
- Though power and majesty are His beyond this world's compare,
- The tiny flow'rs are sweetest, and the children are His care.

The daily round of duty, the daily task of love,

Howe'er trifling, savours of the angels' work above.

The gentle smile in passing, the kind word on the way—

Germs oft in richest blossom to bloom in cloudless day.

The love that speaks in silent acts, the true devoted heart,

Can never give enough of joy, enough of good impart;

But love is not a trifle—nor should we deem it so,
It is our hope, our joy, our trust, our bane, our weal,
or woe.

Yes, little kindly actions far more than words do tell, What clear and plainest language could never say so well.

Such little loving actions, done by tender, gentle hands, Will leave their marks indelible on life's own golden sands.

Oh, life's made up of trifles, as of drops the ocean blue, They waft us to Eternity—that path all must pursue. Then let us ne'er waste a minute, of those that God has giv'n,

Since each one passing nears us to the pearly gates of heav'n.

KING CYRUS' CAPTIVES.

Before the presence of august King Cyrus,
In all the glory of his regal sway,
A heathen Prince, wife, children, household, captives,
Came, 'neath their galling yoke of fears, that day.

A voiceless misery of mute pain, dumb woe,

That Prince's eyes reveal'd, still more his gait;

Bent by the blasting blow of bondage, surely

Grim death were sweeter than this sterner state.

The King spake gently—with a pitying eye
On one so young, so noble, and so sad—
"Say, what wilt thou give thy children to redeem?"
He answer'd, "All, all in the world he had."

"But giving all for them, what yet remainest,
What ransom canst thou offer for thy wife?"
The captive spoke in clear, unfaltering tones,
"For her I'll forfeit, sire, my very life."

"Freedom to you and yours," rejoin'd King Cyrus.

"Begone—I spare your dear ones, and your life."

They left that mighty presence—and the air was

With his praises, and their thankful cries, all rife.

So home they journey'd, descanting as they went
On Persia's monarch, and his noble heart,
But one tongue was silent, though the thoughts ran
deep;

One only in his praises bore no part.

What seem'd ungracious the Prince's ire arous'd,
Who straightway ask'd his wife why this should be?
"I can but think of one," in tears she answer'd,
"Of one who would his life have giv'n for me."

If, like this captive's wife, our hearts and hopesWere centred in that Love which died to freeUs from a direr bondage than earth's fetters,Our lives by such sweet thoughts would nobler be.

AQUA VITÆ.

THROUGH the little lives of men Flows a stream, by rock and glen, Clear or turbid, now and then.

Sometimes fring'd with nodding flow'rs, Jewell'd by the shining show'rs, Hanging o'er lone lazy bow'rs.

Oftener twin'd in tangled weed, Long-lash'd marsh, and rank-grown reed, In the gloom beneath the mead.

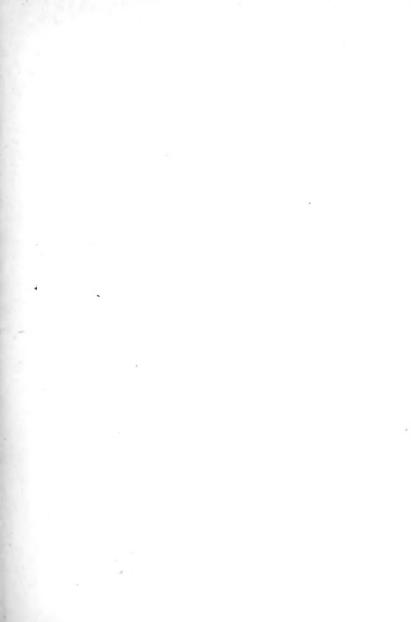
Runs the current never still— Foaming, gurgling down the hill To some far and unknown rill. Flowers of pleasure by that stream, Gliding in you glancing gleam, Life is not one golden dream.

Drifting stream! we ne'er can know How you glide, nor where you go, But through all our veins you flow.

And your path for aye must run, Through the shade, and through the sun, Till its course be duly done.

Then to join the Jasper sea, Where the blue waves smilingly Roll into Eternity.

THE END.





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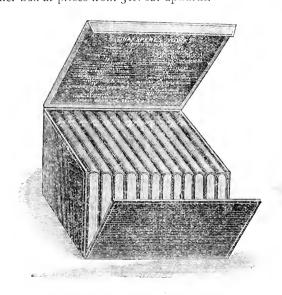
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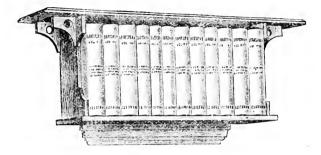
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ACT I

Salar. My wind, cooling my broth, Would blow me to an ague, when I thought What harm a wind too great might do at sea.

I should not see the sandy hour-glass run But I should think of shallows and of flats,

And see my wealthy Andrew, dock'd in sand, Vailing her high-top lower than her ribs

To kiss her burial. Should I go to church And see the holy edifice of stone,

And not bethink me straight of dangerous rocks,

Which touching but my gentle vessel's side,

Would scatter all her spices on the stream,

Enrobe the roaring waters with my silks, And, in a word, but even now worth this,

And, in a word, but even now worth this, And now worth nothing? Shall I have the thought

To think on this, and shall I lack the thought

That such a thing bechanc'd would make me sad?

But tell not me: I know Antonio

Is sad to think upon his merchandise.

Ant. Believe me, no: I thank my fortune for it, My ventures are not in one bottom trusted, Nor to one place; nor is my whole estate

Upon the fortune of this present year:
Therefore my merchandise makes me not sad.

Salar. Why, then you are in love.

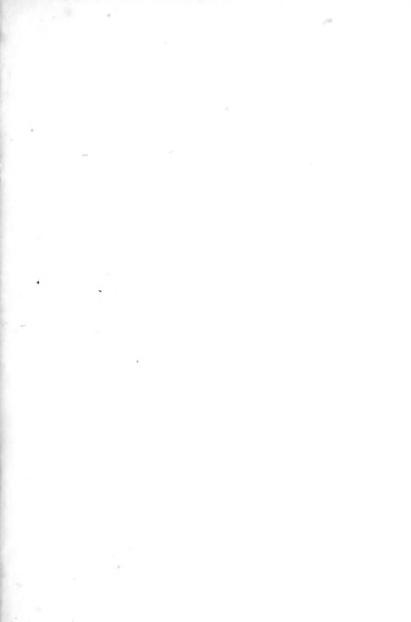
Ant. Fie, fie!

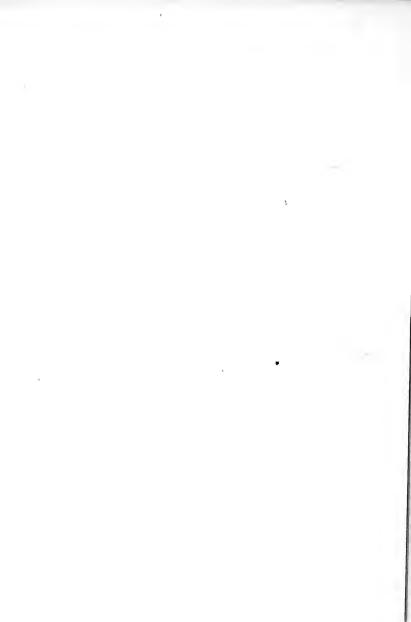
Salar. Not in love neither? Then let us say you are sad.

Because you are not merry; and 'twere as easy For you to laugh, and leap, and say you are merry, Because you are not sad. Now, by two-headed

Janus,

Nature hath fram'd strange fellows in her time: Some that will evermore peep through their eyes And laugh like parrots at a bag-piper; And other of such vinegar aspect







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